

REMARKS

The specification has been amended without disclaimer or prejudice to include the headings, “TECHNICAL FIELD”, “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”, and “DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.” This places the specification in the format recommended by MPEP 608.01(a).

The specification has been amended to include a section entitled, “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.” Support for the amendment is found on pages 7-8 of specification in examples 1 and 2. Example 1 explains that figures 1-3 compare the deactivation rates of three catalysts, calcined silicon-doped aluminumoxide, calcined aluminum oxide, and uncalcined aluminosilicate of the montmorillonite type with the buildup of organic deposits over time. Example 2 explains that figure 4 compares the deactivation rate of uncalcined aluminosilicate of the montmorillonite type with the buildup of organic deposits at a temperature of 400°C and a pressure of 1.5 bars over time. No new matter is added into the specification.

Claim 1 has been amended without prejudice or disclaimer to more clearly specify an embodiment of the present disclosure. Specifically, the claim language, “a catalyst having a low Lewis acidity is used in the main reactor” and “a catalyst having a higher Lewis acidity is used in the after-reactor” has been modified to recite that the catalyst used in the after reactor is 1.5 to 6 times the acidity of the catalyst used in the main reactor. Support for this amendment is found on page 5, lines 9-11 of the specification. No new matter has been added into the claims.

Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer because amended claim 1 now contains recitations of cancelled claim 5.

Drawings

The specification has been amended to include a section entitled, “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS”, which succinctly describes each drawing. No new matter has been added into the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for reciting the phrase, "low Lewis acidity" and "higher Lewis acidity" because the words, "low" and "higher" are relative terms that are not explicitly defined in the specification. Without conceding to the rejection and solely to advance prosecution, applicants have amended the claim without prejudice or disclaimer to include the recitation that the catalyst used in the after-reactor have a volume-standardized surface Lewis acidity of 1.5 to 6 times that of the catalyst used in the main reactor. Support for this amendment is found on page 5, lines 9-11 of the specification. Overcoming the instant rejection places the claims in condition for allowance (as indicated by the examiner on page 4 of the Office Action).

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 13156-00014-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 3/14/07

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Burton A. Amernick

Registration No.: 24,852

R. James Balls

Registration No.: 57,703

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 331-7111

Attorneys for Applicant